

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, and 6-17 are pending in the application and are at issue.

The sole rejection of claims 1, 4, and 6-17 is under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The examiner contends that the phrase "a detectable and measurable color transition in response to a concentration of 0% to about 20%, by weight, of a dialdehyde" is indefinite. For the reasons set forth below, it is submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn.

The invention is summarized at page 24, line 27 through page 25, line 6 of the specification stating:

"The indicator reagent composition undergoes a color transition upon contact with the sample to provide an assay for dialdehyde concentration from the intensity and degree of the color transition. The indicator reagent composition of the present invention provides a sufficiently resolved and differentiated color transition such that the dialdehyde content in the sample can be measured and accurately determined without the use of color- or absorbance-measuring instruments, such as spectrophotometers or colorimeters, over a concentration range of 0% to about 20%, by weight of the composition."

It is understood that for a sample containing 0%, by weight, of a dialdehyde, the detection is a lack of a color transition, thereby showing that the sample is free of a dialdehyde. In other words, the measure of the color transition is zero. For samples contain-

ing about 20% or more, by weight, dialdehyde, the detection limit of the composition has been reached, i.e., no further color change occurs for compositions containing greater than about 20% dialdehyde. In this case, the detectable and measurable color transitions for a sample containing 20% dialdehyde and a sample containing, for example, 25% dialdehyde, would be the same. This information informs the assayer that the sample contains at least 20% dialdehyde.

Therefore, at 0% dialdehyde, a measurable color transition of zero shows an absence of dialdehyde in the sample. At 20% or greater dialdehyde, the color transition is very intense and at the detection limit for the composition, thereby shows a dialdehyde content of 20% or greater in the sample. For dialdehyde concentrations greater than 0% to about 20%, by weight, the composition undergoes a color transition that differs in intensity and degree with dialdehyde content and thereby provides a dialdehyde assay. The ability of the present claimed compositions to assay for dialdehyde content due to a color transition is clearly set forth in Examples I and II at pages 30-33 of the specification.

The phrase of claim 1 questioned by the examiner is clear on its face, and is further described in the specification. Therefore, from the specification, taken with the knowledge of persons skilled in the art, the claims clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the invention. It is submitted that claims 1, 4, and 6-17 fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and that this rejection should be withdrawn.

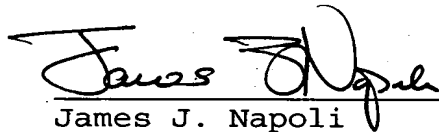
In summary, it is submitted that all pending claims are in proper form and scope for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, the examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

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